

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 01165 141510Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 096863

R 131606Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7775

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AU, YU

SUBJECT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SLOVENE MINORITY ISSUE IN CARINTHIA

REF: VIENNA 0546

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR, IN WAKE OF KREISKY-TITO MEETING IN DECEMBER, HAS BACKED OFF SLIGHTLY FROM HIS EARLIER FIRM COMMITMENT TO HOLDING SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS IN CARINTHIA AND TO RELATING RESULTS TO ERECTION OF BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS. KREISKY-LED SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS TRYING WITHOUT VISIBLE SUCCESS TO MOVE SLOVENE MINORITY TO ACCEPT SPECIAL CENSUS IN EXCHANGE FOR GNERAOUS BILL ON PROMOTION OF MINORITIES. POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN CARINTHIA ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF ISSUE REMAIN INFLEXIBLE. FROM VIENNA VANTAGE, YUGOSLAVIA APPEARS UNCHANGED IN ITS OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO SPECIAL CENSUS BUT SEEMS WILLING TO GIVE GOA RESPITE ON PROPAGANDA FRONT. KREISKY EFFORT TO MANAGE ISSUE WILL PROBABLY TAKE FORM OF FURTHER PROCRASTINATION ON EFFECTIVE ACTION ON WHAT IS NOW TWENTY-YEAR-OLD CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCELLOR KREISKY IS NOW ENGAGED IN MAJOR EXERCISE IN POLITICAL ACROBATICS ON ISSUE WHETHER SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS IS PRECONDITION FOR ERECTION OF BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS IN CARINTHIA, ONLY MAJOR ELEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 01165 141510Z

OF ARTICLE 7 OF 1955 STATE TREATY REMAINING TO BE

FULFILLED. KREISKY-LED SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, UNDER CONSTANT PRODDING FROM SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT AND AUSTRO-GERMAN MILITANT NATIONALISTS IN CARINTHIA, MOVED SLOWLY FORWARD IN 1975 IN DEVELOPING LEGISLATION LOOKING TOWARD HOLDING OF SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS, AN UNDERTAKING WHICH IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED BY LEADERSHIP OF SLOVENE MINORITY IN CARINTHIA.

3. YUGOSLAV SUPPORTERS OF SLOVENE MINORITY HAVE, FOR THEIR PART, FIRMLY AND AT TIMES VOCIFEROUSLY ENDORSED SLOVENE MINORITY STANDPOINT THAT CENSUS IS UNNECESSARY FOR ERECTION OF ROAD SIGNS. RECENT UPTURN IN AUSTRO-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HAS BEEN INTERPRETED, AT LEAST INITIALLY, BY GOA AS INCLUDING MORE ACCOMODATING YUGOSLAV STAND ON BILINGUAL ROAD SIGN ISSUE. KREISKY-TITO MEETING IN SOLVENIA IN DECEMBER WAS SEEN BY AUSTRIAN PRESS AND PUBLIC AS ADDITIONAL HARBINGER OF SUCH ACCOMODATION.

4. KREISKY'S VAGUE AND SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON SLOVENIAN MINORITY ISSUE, PARTICULARLY ROAD SIGN PROBLEM, FOLLOWING HIS MOST RECENT MEETING WITH TITO HAVE HOWEVER GENERATED UNEASE IN CARINTHIA. LEADERS OF CARINTHIAN SOCIALISTS AND PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) HAVE ATTEMPTED EACH IN ITS OWN MANNER TO FORCE REAFFIRMATION FROM KREISKY THAT SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS, AS FORESEEN EARLIER, WILL IN FACT BE HELD. SOCIALIST GOVERNOR WAGNER HAS DONE SO BY CITING SPECIAL LEGISLATION NOW BEING DRAFTED TO "EXPAND MINORITY RIGHTS IN VARIOUS AREAS." MOVE DESCRIBED BY WAGNER AS CONCESSION WHICH CAN ONLY BE MADE IF SLOVENE MINORITY ALSO SHOWS SOME WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE, E.G. ACCEPTS MINORITY CENSUS. OPPOSITION OVP LEADER BACHER USED POLITICAL BLUDGEON ON RULING CARINTHIAN SOCIALISTS BY CHARGING KREISKY WITH HAVING IN EFFECT DECIDED AT BEHEST OF TITO AGAINST HOLDING OF MINORITY CENSUS. RESULT OF WAGNER-BACHER STATEMENTS HAS BEEN REAFFIRMATION AMONG LEADERSHIP OF ALL PARTIES IN CARINTHIA EXCEPT COMMUNIST PARTY THAT BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS GO UP ONLY ON BASIS OF HEAD COUNT BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN FAMILY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENNA 01165 141510Z

5. FOREIGN MINISTER BIELKA, IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST KREISKY ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, INFORMED PRESS ON FEBRUARY 3 THAT COMPREHENSIVE MINORITIES BILL WOULD GO TO PARLIAMENT BEFORE SUMMER AND WOULD BE ADOPTED PRIOR TO PROJECTED "SPECIAL CENSUS," THUS SUGGESTING THAT CONCESSIONS BY SLOVENE MINORITY ON ISSUE WOULD ALSO BE IN ORDER. BIELKA HOWEVER THEN BEFOGGED ISSUE A BIT BY

ADDING THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 7 MUST NOT BE MADE DEPENDENT UPON CENSUS RESULT, A POSITION OBVIOUSLY IN CONFLICT WITH THAT OF CARINTHIAN POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THAT OF SOCIALISTS.

6. KREISKY, IN INTERVIEW WITH SLOVENE-YUGOSLAV TV AT BEGINNING FEBRUARY, INDICATED GOA'S "WILLINGNESS TO GIVE SERIOUS STUDY TO GOY'S RESERVATIONS ON SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS IN CARINTHIA." THIS VIEWPOINT HAS BEEN INTERPRETED AS KREISKY EFFORT TO BACK OFF FROM EARLIER COMMITMENT TO HOLD MINORITY CENSUS.

7. LATEST KREISKY POSITION ON ROAD SIGN ISSUE WAS PUT FORWARD IN MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6 AT WHICH CHANCELLOR INDICATED COMPREHENSIVE MINORITIES BILL WAS BEING PREPARED AS WELL AS "SPECIAL CENSUS" BILL. LATTER BILL HOWEVER WOULD NOT SET FORTH PERCENTAGE OF MINORITY NECESSARY FOR ERECTION OF BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS; PERCENTAGE WOULD INSTEAD BE SUBJECT OF LATER GOVERNMENT DECREE. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO KREISKY, NO LEGISLATION ON MINORITIES WILL BE ADOPTED UNLESS ALSO SUPPORTED BY OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY. OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS MADE BY KREISKY WERE THAT (1) NO DATE HAS BEEN FIXED FOR SPECIAL CENSUS AND THAT (2) CENSUS WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY DETERMINE WHERE BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS WERE TO BE ERECTED BUT MIGHT BE USED SOLELY FOR "ORIENTATION PURPOSES."

8. IN WAKE OF KREISKY PRESS AND TV COMMENTS, VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES TO ISSUE HAVE COME FORWARD IN RECENT DAYS TO REAFFIRM EITHER THEIR OPPOSITION (SLOVENE MINORITY LEADERS, COMMUNIST PARTY, SCATTERING OF UNIVERSITY YOUTH GROUPS, NON-SOCIALIST CORATIAN MINORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENNA 01165 141510Z

GROUP IN BURGENLAND) OR THEIR SUPPORT (NATIONALIST HEIMATDIENST IN CARINTHIA, THREE POLITICAL PARTIES IN CARINTHIAN PARLIAMENT) OF SPECIAL MINORITY CENSUS.

9. DEVELOPMENTS ON ROAD SIGN ISSUE SINCE KREISKY-TITO MEETING IN LATE DECEMBER STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT CHANCELLOR IS TRYING HARD TO BROADEN HIS OPTIONS WITHOUT UNDULY ANTAGONIZING VARIOUS PARTIES INVOLVED IN ISSUE. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN VIENNA, WHILE EXHIBITING SOME DEGREE OF SYMPATHY FOR CHANCELLOR'S DILEMMA, HAVE INDICATED NO YUGOSLAV WILLINGNESS TO YIELD ON PRINCIPLE. RECENT YUGOSLAV RESTRAINT ON ISSUE IMPLIES POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING ON YUGOSLAV SIDE TO GIVE GOA ONCE AGAIN REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME TO MOVE ON ISSUE.

10. EMOTIONS IN CARINTHIA OVER CONTROVERSY HAVE NOT
SUBSIDED AND ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN CARINTHIA
EXCEPT COMMUNISTS ARE SHOWING NO FLEXIBILITY ON ISSUE.
GIVEN NATURE OF PROBLEM AND UNDIMINISHED RECALCITRANCE
OF OPPOSING CAMPS ON MATTER, DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NEW,
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE APPROACH SEEMS IMPROBABLE AT THIS
JUNCTURE. THEREFORE KREISKY WILL MORE LIKELY
CONTINUE TO FIND VARIOUS AND SUNDRY REASONS FOR POSTPONING
EFFECTIVE ACTION ON BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS WHICH IS NOW
TWENTY-YEAR-OLD CONTROVERSY.BUCHANAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MINORITIES, SPECIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENNA01165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0703
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760248/aaaabpyp.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VIENNA 546
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SLOVENE MINORITY ISSUE IN CARINTHIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AU, YO, (KREISKY, BRUNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006